

**ABSTRACT**

The present invention involves a call-waiting apparatus. The apparatus includes a line connector for connection to an incoming telephone line, a phone connector for connection to a telephone handset, and a modem/fax connector for connection to a computer modem or fax machine. The apparatus also includes a controller coupled to the line connector, phone connector, and the modem connector. The controller includes an automatic mode in which upon detecting a call-waiting signal from an incoming communication the controller automatically causes a connection between the line connector and the modem/fax connector to be changed to a connection between the line connector and the phone connector. The controller may also include a manual mode in which upon detecting a call-waiting signal from an incoming communication, the controller actuates one or more alarms indicating an incoming communication. The manual mode allows a user to take the communication, causing a connection between the line connector and the modem/fax connector to be changed to a connection between the line connector and the phone connector, or not take the communication wherein the connection between the line connector and the modem/fax connector is maintained.